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GLORIA MOLINA, YVONNE B. BURKE BREAK GROUND ON FLORENCE-FIRESTONE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

One-Stop Shop to Offer Mini 'County Hall,' Serve 1,000+ Residents Daily

LOS ANGELES (September 11, 2008)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina joined Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and over 200 residents and community activists from the Florence-Firestone neighborhood today to break ground on the Florence-Firestone Community Service Center.

"Florence-Firestone residents need and deserve simple access to basic county services at an easily accessible site," Molina said. "That's exactly what we intend to provide for residents because that's exactly what they've told us they want. When it opens, this service center will function as a mini 'county hall' for over 1,000 Florence-Firestone residents each day. They'll be able to access an array of county services—from attaining birth and marriage certificates to applying for county benefits, and from securing home purchasing assistance to obtaining meals and fitness training for seniors—in an attractive, user-friendly environment. Best of all, the center will be situated in the heart of the neighborhood."

The cost of the center is expected to total approximately \$2,950,000 with Molina's First District funding \$1,100,000 and Burke's Second District supplying the remaining \$1,850,000. (Molina and Burke both represent the unincorporated Florence-Firestone area.) The center is scheduled to open to the public in the Spring of 2010.

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“Our vision is to provide exceptional one-stop services to Florence-Firestone residents, where county services are more accessible and meet the unique needs of the community,” said Burke. “This center is in line with our initiative under the County of Los Angeles’ Strategic Plan to coordinate and enhance local services in unincorporated communities.”

“Supervisors Gloria Molina and Yvonne B. Burke are passionate in their support for the Florence-Firestone Community Service Center,” said Sheriff Lee Baca. “The Sheriff’s substation located adjacent to the center will ensure that residents and business will be safe. Our future is now.”

Future improvements to the Florence-Firestone neighborhood include the resurfacing of Florence Avenue from Central Avenue on the west to Pacific Avenue on the east; opening a new pocket park near the intersection of Converse Avenue and Gage Avenue; and constructing affordable housing for low-income families near the intersection of 61st Street and Holmes Avenue.

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